

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1 and 2 are amended, and Claims 13 and 14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, by way of non-limiting example, at page 13, lines 6-17, in Fig. 5, and in original Claims 13 and 14. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; the specification was objected to; Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-14 were indicated as including allowable subject matter if re-written to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-14.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Hylton for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicants' representative on November 4, 2009, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Arguments and proposed claim amendments similar to the ones developed hereinafter were presented and Examiner Hylton indicated that, in light of the arguments and proposed amendments, she would reconsider the outstanding grounds for rejection upon formal submission of a response. **The claims in the present response are hereby amended exactly in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions to place the application in condition for allowance.**

With respect to the objection to the drawings, Claims 1 and 2 are amended to recite, in part, "a throughhole formed in the bracket and elongated in a vertical direction." As shown in an exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention in Fig. 5, throughholes 46a and 46b

are formed in the bracket 44 and elongated in the vertical direction. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

With respect to the objection to the specification, as discussed above, Claims 1 and 2 are amended to recite, in part, “a throughhole formed in the bracket and elongated in a vertical direction.” As discussed during the interview and noted in an exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention on page 13, lines 6-17 of the specification, throughholes 46a and 46b are formed in the bracket 44 and are oblong holes “longer in the vertical position, so that the positions of the bolts 41 can be adjusted.” Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Claims 1 and 2 are hereby amended to address the issues noted in the Office Action and exactly in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestions during the interview. Specifically, the Office Action in paragraph 3 on page 3 notes that “[t]he disclosure sets forth throughholes (46a, 46b) in the bracket only.” Accordingly, Claims 1 and 2 are amended to recite, in part, “a throughhole formed in the bracket and elongated in a vertical direction.” In view of amended Claims 1 and 2, it is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejections on that basis are anticipated. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

The Advisory Action notes with respect to the claimed bracket and bearing plate that “this structure is unclear and creates new issues.” During the interview, the Examiner asserted that Claims 1 and 2 should be amended to define a connecting portion in the bearing plate and how the fastener connects the bracket and bearing plate. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 2 are amended in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestions during the interview and recite “a throughhole being formed in the bracket and elongated in a vertical direction, a

screw hole formed in the bearing plate, and a rod-shaped fastener extending through the throughhole and the screw hole to fasten the bracket and the bearing plate to each other.” Support for the amendments can be found in original Claims 13 and 14. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added and the amendments to Claims 1 and 2 raise no new issues. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 2 “define how the fastener connects the bracket and bearing plate,” as suggested during the interview. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claims 1 and 2, and all claims dependent thereon, be allowed.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Adnan H. Bohri
Registration No. 62,648

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 07/09)